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United Nations Environment Programme

Report of the Governing Council

Twenty-third session (21-25 February 2005)

General Assembly

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Report of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on its twenty-third session

Nairobi, 21-25 February 2005

[22 April 2005]

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Introduction

1. The twenty-third session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 21 to 25 February 2005. The Council adopted the present report at the 10th plenary meeting of the session, on 25 February 2005.

I. Opening of the session

2. The twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was opened at 10.20 a.m. on 21 February 2005 by the master of ceremonies. The proceedings commenced with a musical performance by the Kibondo Environmental Management Association cultural group from the United Republic of Tanzania, in honour of the outgoing President of the Governing Council, Mr. Arcado Ntagazwa, Minister of State for the Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania.

3. Opening statements were made by Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP; the outgoing President; Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered on his behalf by Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP; Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); Mr. Zeng Peiyan, Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China; and Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya.

4. Before delivering his statement, the Executive Director invited those present to take time to remember the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster. Participants stood to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the hundreds of thousands who lost their lives in the tragedy.

5. In his statement, he noted with satisfaction that never before had a session of the Council/Forum been so well attended, which was indicative of the willingness of States to strengthen the environment as one of the pillars of sustainable development and demonstrated the importance of the environment globally. He welcomed the attendance at the session of so many high-level dignitaries and representatives not only of Governments, but also of civil society, non-governmental organizations, business communities and young people. Extending a particular welcome to Mr. Kibaki, he said that UNEP was proud, as one of only two United Nations organizations with headquarters in Africa, to have been in Kenya for 30 years. In conclusion, he thanked the outgoing president for his excellent work.

6. In his statement, Mr. Ntagazwa reflected on his tenure as President of the Governing Council since the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in March 2004. Noting the extent to which the outcome of the Jeju meeting had allowed international environmental governance to move forward, he said that the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building by the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group at its third session, in Bali, Indonesia, on 4 December 2004, was a landmark achievement. Technology support was important not only for cleaner production and sustainable consumption, but also for viable and sustainable economic growth. Expressing a firm belief in the concept of environment for development, he thanked the Executive Director for the support which he had provided over the past year and congratulated him on receiving an award from the Theodor Heuss Foundation, whose mission was to support democracy and promote education and culture.

7. The Council/Forum also heard a statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered on his behalf by Mr. Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP. In his statement, the Secretary-General noted that the task of safeguarding the environment was as urgent as ever and key to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Success in achieving those Goals was dependent on healthy ecosystems and on the development of resources to defeat poverty, treat disease and promote sustainable economic growth. Environmental concerns needed to be better integrated into policy-making and strategies for security, development and humanitarian action.

8. In the light of recent developments, including the unprecedented response to the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, the important advances made at the International Meeting to Review the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Port Louis, Mauritius, and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, both held in January 2005, and the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, global understanding of the interlinkages between the environment and economic development had gained fresh significance. Noting that there was much at stake for the United Nations, he urged participants to sustain the current momentum and to ensure that UNEP had the policies and support which it needed to play its proper role.

9. In her statement, Ms. Tibaijuka highlighted the important partnership between UNEP and UN-Habitat and the complementarities between their mandates and activities, which were designed to ensure that the environment was an integral component of urban development and poverty alleviation efforts worldwide. Drawing attention to the rapid joint response by the two bodies in providing assistance to the countries and people affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami, to whom she offered her condolences, she said that UNEP and UN-Habitat had worked together in providing early assessment and in coordinating mitigation and reconstruction proposals. They would continue to adapt, strengthen and broaden their frameworks for cooperation. In that connection, she invited the Executive Director of UNEP to address participants at the opening of the forthcoming twentieth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

10. Noting that the ministerial consultations to be held during the current session would focus on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration, she said that the struggle to achieve those goals must be waged in human settlements, particularly slums, where rapid urbanization had led to a substantial increase in poverty. In that regard, she announced with satisfaction that the problem of waste leakage from a sewer at the Kibera slum in Nairobi had finally been resolved and that spillage into the Nairobi dam had been halted.

11. Mr. Zeng Peiyan, after extending his Government's condolences to the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, acknowledged the important role that had been played by UNEP over the years in global environmental and development affairs and noted that the current session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum would play a positive role in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. Although his Government attached great importance to the issue of sustainable development and had adopted a national strategy to promote such development, China was still a developing country and suffered from many of the social and economic problems shared by developing countries worldwide. In recognition of the fact that greater cooperation was needed to preserve the natural environment and achieve global development, his Government would increase its assistance to the countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster: in addition to the 500 million yuan of assistance which it was providing through bilateral channels, it had earmarked a further $20 million to be provided through multilateral channels, of which $500,000 would be channelled through UNEP.

12. A poem with an environmental theme was read out by Ms. Caroline N'Deritu, a contemporary Kenyan poet.

13. In his statement, Mr. Kibaki welcomed participants to Kenya and, recalling the recent Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, noted that the last century had seen a transformation of the world into a global village where events in one region had far-reaching consequences in others. He conveyed his personal condolences and those of the Kenyan people to the Governments and people affected by the tsunami.

14. Kenya was particularly sensitive to environmental issues and the global recognition of its Nobel Laureate, Ms. Wangari Maathai, was a source of great pride and inspiration. Welcoming the recent entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, he commended the countries which had taken the brave step of ratifying it and strongly urged those that had not to do so as soon as possible for the sake of sustainable development. Given the nature and the scale of the challenges faced by developing countries in achieving the goals of the Millennium Declaration, increased international cooperation was needed. Strengthening the financial and scientific base of UNEP

was key to the achievement of those goals and to the fulfilment of the vision established in 1972 at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm.

II. Organization of the session

A. Attendance

15. The following 54 States members of the Governing Council were represented:

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Belgium
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Cuba
Czech Republic
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Israel
Japan
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Mexico
Monaco
Morocco
Namibia
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Poland
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Somalia
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
Tuvalu
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Zambia
Zimbabwe

16. The following 86 States not members of the Governing Council but members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers:

Algeria
Angola
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Barbados
Belarus
Belize
Benin
Botswana
Burundi
Cambodia
Comoros
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Finland
Gambia
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea-Bissau
Honduras
Iceland
Iraq
Ireland
Italy
Jordan
Kiribati
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Lithuania
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mongolia
Mozambique
Nepal
New Zealand
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Republic of Moldova
Rwanda
Saint Lucia
Serbia and Montenegro
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
Yemen

17. Observers to UNEP for the Holy See and the Palestinian Authority also participated.

18. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented:

Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat
Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Development Fund for Women
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
United Nations Population Fund

19. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Civil Aviation Organization
International Maritime Organization
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Bank
World Health Organization
World Meteorological Organization

20. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Centre for Technology Studies
African Union
Commonwealth Secretariat
European Community
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
League of Arab States
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
World Conservation Union

21. In addition, 206 non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations were represented.

B. Election of officers

22. At the opening session of the meeting, on 21 February, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Mr. Rachmat Witoelar (Indonesia)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Sedogo Laurent (Burkina Faso) Ms. Sulfina Barbu (Romania) Mr. Beat Nobs (Switzerland)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Donald Cooper (Bahamas)

23. Pursuant to a request by the group of Western European and other States, the Council decided that, in the event that Switzerland was not a member of the Governing Council in 2006, Mr. Nobs would be replaced by a representative of a State member of the Governing Council from the group of Western European and other States.

24. Following his election, the President thanked the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum for entrusting him with such a challenging and noble task and expressed his gratitude to the Executive Director for his tireless efforts to promote the environment for sustainable development. He paid special tribute to the outgoing president, Mr. Ntagazwa, whose wise counsel and leadership had contributed significantly to enhancing the role of UNEP and to the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building. He expressed his gratitude to all those who were working in the common endeavour to protect the planet and congratulated Ms. Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. He also thanked the Government and the people of Kenya for their warm welcome and hospitality.

25. In view of the continuing degradation of the environment and the challenges impeding the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, it was vital to strengthen UNEP, the leadership role of the Council/Forum, cooperation and coordination with other United Nations bodies and the Environmental Management Group, which had been established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999. Cooperation and coordination were increasingly important given the recent entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. Reiterating the need to provide stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for UNEP, he commended Governments on the spirit of cooperation which they had shown in adopting the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building.

26. He conveyed the gratitude of the people and Government of Indonesia for the assistance, expressions of sympathy and support that had been extended to them in the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster.

C. Credentials of representatives

27. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of the representatives attending the Council/Forum. The credentials of the representatives of 54 of the 58 member States had been formally notified and had been found to be in order, and the Bureau so reported to the Council. The Council/Forum approved the Bureau's report at the 9th plenary meeting, on 25 February 2005.

D. Agenda

28. At the opening meeting, the Council/Forum adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council/Forum at its twenty-second session (UNEP/GC.23/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
   (a) Election of officers;

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment.

5. Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

6. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

7. International environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance.

8. Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on environmental matters.

9. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.

10. Provisional agenda, date and place of:

(a) The ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(b) The twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

11. Other matters.

12. Adoption of the report.

13. Closure of the session.

E. Organization of the work of the session

29. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, the Council/Forum considered and approved the organization of work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated agenda and organization of work (UNEP/GC.23/1/Add.1) suggested by the Executive Director and recommended by the Bureau. Pursuant to one of those recommendations, it was decided that the Council/Forum would hold ministerial consultations to review the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration in relation to poverty alleviation, gender and environment, and also to policy issues related to water, sanitation and human settlements, under agenda items 5 and 6.

30. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Council/Forum decided to establish, in accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, a sessional Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole would meet concurrently with the plenary to consider agenda items 4 (Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment); 7 (International environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance); 8 (Cooperation and coordination with the United Nations system on environmental matters); 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters); 10 (a) (Provisional agenda, date and place of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum); and 10 (b)

(Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum).

31. It was further decided at the 1st plenary meeting that the Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Mr. Beat Nobs (Switzerland), Vice-President of the Council. A decision was also made to establish a drafting group to work on draft decisions for possible adoption by the Council, to be chaired by Mr. Paul Zom Lolo (Nigeria).

F. Report of the ministerial consultations

32. The report of the ministerial consultations held on 21, 22 and 23 February 2005 is contained in annex II to the proceedings (UNEP/GC.23/11). The Council/Forum took note of the report at its 9th plenary meeting, on Friday, 25 February 2005. At its 10th plenary meeting, the Council/Forum took note of the President's summary of the of the discussions by ministers and heads of delegation (UNEP/GC.23/L.3/Rev.1), which had been prepared as a contribution to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, to be held in New York in September 2005, to review the progress made in the fulfilment of the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The text of the President's summary is contained in the appendix to annex II to the proceedings.

G. Report of the Committee of the Whole

33. The Committee of the Whole held nine meetings under the chairmanship of Mr. Nobs, Vice-President of the Council, from 21 to 25 February, to consider the agenda items assigned to it. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 25 February, the Council/Forum took note of the report of the Committee of the Whole, which had been adopted by the Committee at its 9th meeting, on 25 February, on the basis of the draft report which had been circulated. The report is contained in annex III to the proceedings.

H. Policy statement by the Executive Director

34. Also at the first plenary meeting, the Executive Director delivered a policy statement, in which he suggested that 2005, the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations, should be viewed as a year of responsibility and accountability, including responsibility for the reform of the United Nations as a whole. The preparation of a strong Governing Council contribution to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review the progress made in the fulfilment of the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration was a task which lay before the Council/Forum. Noting that, in Africa, the implementation of the goals of the Millennium Declaration was not only off track but heading in the wrong direction, he stressed the need for greater efforts and resources to reverse that trend. Nevertheless, the establishment of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was a good example of solidarity in Africa.

35. The formal adoption by the Governing Council of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building would be an important step forward for UNEP. Approximately 30 per cent of UNEP reserve funds would be allocated in 2005 to the regional offices to promote the implementation of the Plan. He thanked the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), UN-Habitat, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) for their contributions and hard work over the past two years in partnership with UNEP, and particularly in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster.

36. The policy statement of the Executive Director was circulated as document UNEP/GC.23/2.

III. Matters requiring the special attention of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council

A. President's summary of the discussions by ministers and heads of delegation at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme as a contribution to the summit meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration

37. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 25 February 2005, ministers and heads of delegation participating in the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum requested the President of the Council to convey to the President of the General Assembly, for submission to the high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly at its sixtieth session, the President's summary of the discussions on goals 1, 3, and 7 of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration. The summary, which is contained in the appendix to annex II to the proceedings, reflects the major thrusts of the discussion among the participants, rather than providing a consensus view of all points.

B. Dates and venues of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

38. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 25 February 2005, the Council/Forum decided to hold its ninth special session in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 7 to 9 February 2006, and its twenty-fourth session in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5 to 9 February 2007.

C. International environmental governance

39. By its decision 23/1, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director to give high priority to the effective and immediate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, as adopted by the same decision, to undertake as a matter of priority the necessary steps regarding coordination mechanisms, and to work out a resource-mobilization strategy and coordinate with other funding agencies, when appropriate, to ensure the immediate and sustained implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan.

40. It also decided to request the Executive Director to update his proposal for an "Environment Watch" framework, and to submit that update to Governments, for their views, so as to enable submission of a report to the Governing Council at its ninth special session.

41. It further decided to undertake the further review and consideration of the issue of universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its ninth special session in 2006, during the ministerial consultations, with a view to providing inputs as a contribution to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

D. Updated water policy and strategy of UNEP

42. By its decision 23/2, the Council/Forum decided to adopt the updated water policy and strategy as presented to it as a general framework and guidance for the activities of UNEP in the field of water and sanitation for the period 2005–2007; and to request that a draft updated water policy and strategy should be circulated by the ninth special session in order that a final draft may be circulated no later than September 2006 for consideration by the Council at its twenty-fourth session.

43. It also welcomed the generous offer of the Government of China to host the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in 2006 and requested the Executive Director to proceed with organizing the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting.

E. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007

44. By its decision 23/3, the Council/Forum decided to authorize the Executive Director, with a view to ensuring better conformity with the practices in other United Nations bodies, to reallocate resources between budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources were reallocated; and to request that, should the Executive Director need to reallocate funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of an appropriation, he do so in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

F. Small island developing States

45. By its decision 23/5, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director to continue strengthening activities by UNEP related to small island developing States on a tailored and regional basis and further to rationalize delivery by UNEP in the relevant sea areas.

G. Keeping the world environmental situation under review

46. By its decision 23/6, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director to establish a process of developing the fourth Global Environment Outlook as an integrated assessment of the global environment which involved Governments and built upon national, subregional and regional information, assessments and experiences.

H. Strengthening environmental emergency response and developing disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning systems in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

47. By its decision 23/7, the Council/Forum decided to support the efforts of Governments and the international community to cooperate in the development of a worldwide early-warning system for natural and human-induced disasters through, among other things, a multimodal approach, and taking into consideration the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for all-hazards warning systems, which should include a tsunami early-warning system for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian region and other areas potentially at risk, under the coordination of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

48. It also decided to request the Executive Director to continue developing, in close consultation with Governments, relevant international institutions and secretariats of multilateral environment agreements, an environmental approach to the identification and assessment of areas which are potentially at risk from natural and human-induced disasters and guidelines outlining procedures and methodologies for environmental assessments of natural and human-induced disasters.

I. Environmental and equity considerations in the procurement practices of UNEP

49. By its decision 23/8, the Council/Forum decided to invite Governments to share with UNEP their experiences, lessons learned and best practices related to environmental and equity considerations in procurement practices.

50. It also decided to request the Executive Director to prepare a compilation report on environmental and equity considerations regarding current procurement practices in UNEP and an assessment of its performance and to present it to the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-fourth session.

J. Chemicals management

51. By its decision 23/9, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director to make the necessary preparations for a third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, to be held in September 2005 in Vienna, and, in cooperation with the other co-conveners, for the International Conference on Chemicals Management which is envisaged to take place in conjunction with the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2006, at which the Executive Director is to report on the outcomes of the process for developing the strategic approach to international chemicals management with a view to the Council/Forum considering its endorsement.

52. It also decided to assess at its twenty-fourth session the need for further action on mercury, considering a full range of options, including the possibility of a legally binding instrument, partnerships and other actions, on the basis of the progress report to be prepared by the Executive Director on the implementation of the same decision with regard to mercury.

K. Poverty and the environment

53. By its decision 23/10, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director to enhance further the activities of UNEP in all regions to promote understanding of the linkages between poverty and the environment and, where appropriate, to assist Governments, upon their request, to integrate environmental decision-making into social and economic policy on poverty eradication.

L. Gender equality in the field of the environment

54. By its decision 23/11, the Council/Forum decided to invite Governments to promote methods of work conducive to women's participation in environmental decision-making at all levels with the aim of achieving broad gender balance and actively to involve all stakeholders in their gender-equality and environment-related activities.

55. It also decided to request the Executive Director to integrate further gender-equality and environment activities into the programme of work of UNEP and to invite the Executive Director, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources, to explore options, in consultation with Governments, for the development of an action plan for gender mainstreaming within the work of the United Nations Environment Programme.

IV. Adoption of decisions[1]

A. Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance (decision 23/1)

56. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the drafting group and the Committee of the Whole.

57. Referring to part IV of the decision, on strengthening the financing of UNEP, the representative of the United States of America said that her Government did not intend to make contributions to the Environment Fund on the basis of the proposed voluntary indicative scale of contributions for the biennium 2006–2007 and did not wish to participate in the operation of that scale.

B. Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 23/2)

58. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the drafting group, as orally revised.

C. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2006–2007 (decision 23/3)

59. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

60. One representative noted that the working group established by the Committee of the Whole to discuss the UNEP programme of work and budget had reached a certain understanding on the meaning of paragraph 11 of the decision, which was that the paragraph was solely intended to encourage good management.

61. Noting that, by adopting the decision, the Governing Council had approved the proposed staffing tables under the Environment Fund biennial support budget for 2006-2007, the representative of the United States of America said that her Government did not intend to increase its contributions to the Environment Fund for the purpose of funding additional posts.

D. Administrative and other budgetary matters (decision 23/4)

62. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

E. Small island developing States (decision 23/5)

63. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole, as orally amended.

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[1] For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session, see the annex to the present report.

F. Keeping the world environmental situation under review (decision 23/6)

64. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

G. Strengthening environmental emergency response and developing disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning systems in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster (decision 23/7)

65. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

H. Environmental and equity considerations in the procurement practices of UNEP (decision 23/8)

66. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

I. Chemicals management (decision 23/9)

67. The Council adopted the draft decision on chemicals management on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

68. The representative of the United States of America announced her Government's decision to provide $1 million in support of the UNEP mercury programme and the partnership approach to reducing the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds, which were outlined in the decision.

J. Gender equality in the field of the environment (decision 23/10)

69. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

K. Poverty and the environment (decision 23/11)

70. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

L. Provisional agenda, dates and venues of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (decision 23/12)

71. The Council adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the text submitted by the Committee of the Whole.

Annex

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Decision 23/1: Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted in Nairobi on 7 February 1997,[1] and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,[2] adopted in Malmö, Sweden, on 31 May 2000,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 58/209 of 23 December 2003 and 59/226 of 22 December 2004,

Recalling further its decisions SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 adopted in Cartagena, Colombia, and SS.VIII/1 of 31 March 2004 adopted in Jeju, Republic of Korea,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3] which emphasized the full implementation of decision SS.VII/1 of the Governing Council,[4]

Emphasizing that all components of the recommendations on international environmental governance, as contained in decision VII/1, should be fully implemented,

Reiterating that the promotion and provision of technology support and capacity-building in environment-related fields for developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition remain an important component of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting with appreciation the work of the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, as well as the contributions submitted to it by regional ministerial and other intergovernmental forums in the field of the environment, by United Nations bodies and agencies, including their submissions through the Environmental Management Group, and by civil society organizations, major groups and expert institutions,

Recognizing the critical role of knowledge and capacity-building for mainstreaming environmental issues and considerations into decision-making processes across all relevant social and economic sectors,

Recognizing also the importance of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting inter-agency cooperation in capacity-building,

Recognizing further the many existing networks for data and information collection, management, exchange and dissemination, the rapidly evolving information and communication technologies and the need to maximize their potential for providing information for decision-making on environmental issues,

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1 Governing Council decision 19/1, annex.

2 Governing Council decision SS.VI/1, annex.

3 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 2, annex.

4 Ibid., para. 140 (d).

Recognizing that increased availability of environmental data and information would contribute to strengthening international, regional and national capacity for environmental governance, to enhancing progress towards internationally agreed goals and targets and to monitoring and reporting efforts, and that such increased availability will require improved cooperation and collaboration at all levels, including in building capacity for national-level data-gathering,

Taking note with appreciation of the evaluation report by the Executive Director on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the intergovernmental consultation[5] held in January 2004 on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting the continuing consideration of the important but complex issue of universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum,

Reiterating the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlining the need to consider adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget,

Recognizing in that regard the need for a stronger financial base of the United Nations Environment Programme, including a broader donor base,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international environmental governance,[6]

I

Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

1. *Adopts* the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[7] as adopted by the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building at its third session in Bali, Indonesia, on 4 December 2004;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to give high priority to the effective and immediate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director, as a matter of priority, to undertake the necessary steps regarding coordination mechanisms as provided for in section V of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to work out a resource-mobilization strategy and coordinate with other funding agencies, when appropriate, to ensure the immediate and sustained implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan;

5. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so to provide necessary additional financial resources for the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

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5 UNEP/GCSS.VIII/5/Add.4.

6 UNEP/GC.23/6.

7 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on measures taken for the full implementation the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building at its ninth special session, in 2006, and on the further implementation thereof at its twenty-fourth session, in 2007;

II

Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

7. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, as recommended by the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, including the reinforcement of the scientific capacity of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, including through the provision of adequate financial resources;

8. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so and other partners active in the field of development to provide funding, including through in-kind support for the participation of national scientific experts and institutions, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, for further strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to update his proposal for an "Environment Watch" framework,[8] taking into account the recommendations of the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme held in January 2004[9] and also the outcome of the intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation on the fourth Global Environment Outlook of February 2005,[10] and to submit that update to Governments, for their views, so as to enable submission of a report to the Governing Council at its ninth special session;

III

Universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

10. *Notes* the differences in the views expressed so far on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

11. *Decides* to undertake the further review and consideration of the issue of universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its ninth special session in 2006, during the ministerial consultations, with a view to providing inputs as a contribution to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

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[8] UNEP/GC.23/3.

[9] UNEP/SI/IGC/3.

[10] UNEP/DEWA/GEO/IGC.1/2.

IV

Strengthening the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme

12. *Emphasizes* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environment Fund, in the context of the United Nations regular budget, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII);

13. *Takes note* of the note by the Executive Director on strengthening the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme;[11]

14. *Reaffirms* its support for the provision of adequate, stable and predictable financing of the United Nations Environment Programme as an essential prerequisite for the strengthening of its capacity and functions, as well as effective coordination of the environmental component of sustainable development;

15. *Encourages* Governments, to the extent feasible, to move towards contributions to the Environment Fund in preference to contributions to earmarked trust funds, with a view to enhancing the role of the Governing Council in setting the agenda of work and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

16. *Also encourages* Governments, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, to make their voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund on the basis of either the voluntary indicative scale of contributions or any of the other voluntary options contained in paragraph 18 of decision SS.VII/1;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director, in accordance with paragraph 19 of decision SS.VII/1, to notify all member States of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions which he intends to propose for the biennium 2006–2007 and urges all member States to inform the Executive Director whether they will use the proposed voluntary indicative scale of contributions;

18. *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report to enable the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session to assess the operation of the extended pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions and the other voluntary options contained in paragraph 18 of decision SS.VII/1;

19. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue his efforts in seeking an increase in funding, from all sources, for strengthening the financial base of the United Nations Environment Programme;

20. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report on all aspects of financial strengthening for consideration by the Governing Council at its ninth special session, in 2006;

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[11] UNEP/GC.23/INF/12.

V

Multilateral environmental agreements

21. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) Within the mandate of decision SS.VII/1, to continue to focus on activities to improve the coordination among, synergy between and effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties to such agreements and the need to promote the environmental dimension of sustainable development among other relevant United Nations organizations;

(b) To intensify efforts to support implementation by parties to multilateral environmental agreements of their obligations under such agreements, upon request, including through the provision of technical assistance through, among other things, the Bali Strategic Plan;

VI

Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system and the Environmental Management Group

22. *Acknowledges* the report on the work of the Environmental Management Group[12] as well as the assessment of the location of the Environmental Management Group secretariat, including its mandate and future programme of work, and in that regard calls upon the Executive Director to initiate discussions with members of the Environmental Management Group and with the Committee of Permanent Representatives with a view to reporting on the outcome to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

23. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote coordination across the United Nations system on environmental activities, in particular those relevant to operations of the United Nations system, keeping in mind paragraphs 36 and 37 of decision SS.VII/1, through the work of the Environmental Management Group.

Decision 23/2: Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 21/11 of 9 February 2001 and 22/2 of 7 February 2003,

Recognizing the priorities outlined in Governing Council decisions and consistent with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the internationally agreed goals of the Millennium Declaration[13] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[14] and the

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12 UNEP/GC.23/7.

13 General Assembly resolution 55/2.

14 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 2, annex.

outcome of the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development[15] and in anticipation of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, on water, sanitation and human settlements,

Recalling the commitment of Governments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries,[16]

Recalling in particular the commitments of Governments to reduce by half, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and to achieve internationally agreed development goals related to the environment,

Bearing in mind principles 2, 3, 4, 7, 10 and 11 of the Rio Declaration,[17]

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy[18] as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 22/2,

Expressing its appreciation to the Executive Director for the measures taken to implement Governing Council decision 22/2,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the third World Water Forum on 23 March 2003,[19]

Recalling the Jeju Initiative,[20] which is a summary of the rich and interactive discussion on the part of the ministers attending the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, rather than a consensus view on all points,

1. *Adopts* the updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme[21] as a general framework and guidance for the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of water and sanitation for the period 2005–2007, to be implemented with interested countries, upon their request;

2. *Notes* the concerns and reservations of Governments regarding the outstanding substantive and procedural issues in the development of the updated water policy and strategy;

3. *Recommends* that the Executive Director in his review takes into account areas of interest and concerns relating to, among other things, the following concepts included in the updated water policy and strategy:

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15 E/2004/29-E/CN.17/2004/21.

16 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 2, annex.

17 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

18 UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1.

19 Final report of the third World Water Forum (March 2003).

20 UNEP/GCSS.VIII/8, annex II.

21 UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1/Add.1.

(a) Ecosystem approaches to integrated water resource management;

(b) Emerging concepts;

(c) Global assessment and monitoring;

(d) Innovative instruments;

(e) Participation and water governance;

(f) Support to regional and subregional water bodies;

(g) Groundwater;

(h) Mention of the final report of the World Commission on Dams;[22]

(i) Conceptual precision in the use of the terms "global waters", "international waters" and "transboundary waters" applied to oceans, seas and inland bodies of water;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to take the necessary effective measures to monitor the implementation of the water policy and strategy as updated;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to intensify collaborative activities with Governments, upon request, as well as with other organizations and agencies, in furtherance of the implementation of the water policy and strategy;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in anticipation of the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly to review implementation of the Millennium Declaration and other major relevant international meetings, in consultation with Governments, further to review the water policy and strategy to ensure that it contributes to the achievement of the internationally agreed goals contained in the Millennium Declaration[23] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;[24]

7. *Requests* that the draft updated water policy and strategy should be circulated by the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in order that a final draft may be circulated no later than September 2006 for consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to circulate a report on the implementation and resource allocation of the water policy and strategy before the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other agencies, to revise the Strategic Action Plan on

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22 Final report of the World Commission on Dams, *Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-making* (November 2000).

23 General Assembly resolution 55/2.

24 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 2, annex.

Municipal Wastewater[25] of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, with a view to including the present work of the Global Programme of Action on urban sanitation, as well as rural sanitation, in order to address the environmental dimension of sanitation, and to include the Strategic Action Plan for consideration by the Governing Council in its review of the updated water policy and strategy at its twenty-fourth session;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate the further development of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Environment Monitoring System on Water to ensure:

(a) Its continued role as a major global water quality assessment and monitoring programme;

(b) Its continued role as the repository for global water-quality data and its growing role in the development of water-quality indicators to support achievement of the water-related goals contained within the Millennium Declaration and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(c) Its continued provision of inputs to the World Water Assessment Programme and the World Water Development Report;

11. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of the People's Republic of China to host the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in 2006, which will serve as an important contribution to furthering implementation of the goals and targets associated with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Declaration, as well as to the review of oceans and seas, marine resources, small island developing States and disaster management and vulnerability scheduled to be undertaken by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2014–2015;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to proceed with organizing the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action, working to ensure as broad participation as possible, and to that end urges all Governments to be actively involved in the intergovernmental review process and, when possible, to make financial contributions to support the costs associated with that milestone event;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme, when undertaking its activities related to the environmental aspects of water and sanitation, fully takes into account the work carried out by national Governments, international and regional organizations, multilateral environmental agreements and other United Nations agencies, so as to avoid duplication and to promote synergies, and takes into account the possibilities of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme in that respect;

14. *Further requests* Governments in a position to do so, as well as intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, to respond positively to the resource-mobilization efforts of the Executive Director supporting the implementation of the activities provided for in the water policy and strategy in order to augment the budgetary support provided for in the relevant subprogrammes for the period 2005–2007;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the necessary support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition through the implementation by the United Nations Environment

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25 UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/1.

Programme of activities under the water policy and strategy within the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;[26]

16. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

Decision 23/3: Budget and the programme of work for the biennium 2006–2007

The Governing Council,

Having considered the proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2006–2007[27] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[28]

1. *Approves* the programme of work for the biennium 2006–2007, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;

2. *Approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 144 million United States dollars for the purposes indicated below:

2006-2007 biennial programme and support budget
(thousands of United States dollars)

Programme of work

Environmental assessment and early warning	25,350
Policy development and law	17,901
Policy implementation	11,370
Technology, industry and economics	25,954
Regional cooperation and representation	24,675
Environmental conventions	8,625
Communications and public information	8,125
Total programme of work	**122,000**
Fund programme reserve	**6,000**
Support budget	**16,000**
Grand total	**144,000**

3. *Urges* Governments to support further strengthening of the Environment Fund through the options envisaged in Governing Council decision SS.VII/1, including the voluntary indicative scale of contributions;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the regional annexes prepared in line with paragraph 31 of Governing Council decision 22/20 and paragraph 1 of decision SS.VIII/3;

5. *Also notes with appreciation* the prudent and responsible manner in which the Executive Director has exercised his budgetary and financial discretion;

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26 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

27 See document UNEP/GC.23/8.

28 See document UNEP/GC.23/8/Add.1.

6. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, with a view to ensuring better conformity with the practices in other United Nations bodies, to reallocate resources between budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources are reallocated;

7. *Requests* that, should the Executive Director need to reallocate funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of an appropriation, he do so in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

8. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of allocations for programme activities to bring it into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

9. *Urges* the Executive Director further to increase the level of the financial reserve to 20 million United States dollars as and when carry-over resources become available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the biennium 2004-2005 and 2006-2007;

10. *Recommends* that the Executive Director, in the light of possible financial constraints, take a cautious approach to the creation of additional posts under the Environment Fund programme;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue the shift in emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results, ensuring that United Nations Environment Programme managers at all levels take responsibility for the achievement of the programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Director to keep Governments specifically informed, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a quarterly basis and the Governing Council at its regular and special sessions, of the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including contributions and expenditures, and reallocations of the appropriations or adjustments of the allocations;

13. *Welcomes* the extensive consultations between the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparing the draft budget and programme of work for the biennium 2006–2007 and requests the Executive Director to continue such consultations for the preparation of each biennial budget and programme of work;

14. *Expresses* its appreciation to those Governments which have contributed to the Environment Fund in the biennium 2004–2005 and appeals to all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or to increase their support to the United Nations Environment Programme, in cash or in kind, in order to permit the full implementation of the programme;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to step up his efforts to mobilize resources from all sources, in order further to broaden the donor base and to enhance income levels;

16. *Also requests* all Governments, where possible, to pay their contributions before the year to which the contributions relate, or at the latest at the beginning of the year to which they relate, in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute the Fund programme more effectively;

17. *Further requests* all Governments, where possible, to make pledges of their future contributions to the Environment Fund at least one year in advance of the year to which they relate and, if possible, on a multi-year basis;

18. *Approves* the recommendation by the Executive Director that the outstanding pledges for the period 1999–2000 should not be regarded as assets for accounting purposes;

19. *Approves* the proposed staffing tables under the Environment Fund biennial support budget for 2006–2007 as set forth in the relevant report of the Executive Director;[29]

20. *Notes* that an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi or the United Nations Environment Programme in the biennium 2006–2007 would decrease the requirement under the Environment Fund biennial support budget, thereby releasing resources which should be reallocated for the programme activities or the Environment Fund financial reserve;

21. *Calls for* an allocation of an appropriate share of the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme;

22. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which underlined the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget, looks forward to the implementation of the requests of the General Assembly to the United Nations Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review, so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the United Nations Environment Programme and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

23. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide financial details of work programmes to Governments in accordance with article VI of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, if so requested;

24. *Also requests* the Executive Director, further to article VI of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund, to make available to Governments, twice a year, information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work and further requests that the information be structured in accordance with the programme of work;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on a quarterly basis, with comprehensive information on all financial facilities made available for the United Nations Environment Programme, including core funding, Environment Fund, earmarked funds and payments by the Global Environment Facility and other sources, in order to contribute to the transparency of the overall financial status of the United Nations Environment Programme during the biennium 2006–2007;

26. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, apart from those for which the United Nations Environment Programme merely acts as treasurer, are used to fund activities which are in line with the programme of work;

27. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to propose ways and means of addressing the balance between non-earmarked and earmarked funding of the programme of work and to ensure clarity with respect to resources and expected results;

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[29] UNEP/GC.23/8.

28. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2008–2009;

29. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare for the biennium 2008–2009 a programme of work consisting of Environment Fund programme activities amounting to 130 million United States dollars;

30. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined draft budget and work programme for the biennium 2008–2009 for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

31. *Further requests* the Executive Director to give high priority to the effective and immediate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;[30]

32. *Requests* the Executive Director, in exercising his authority to reallocate resources, reconfirmed in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the present decision, and in drawing on the Fund Programme reserve, to give particular attention to high-priority areas;

33. *Also requests* the Executive Director to undertake the work set out in his proposed road map[31] for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, in accordance with the consultation process outlined in the aforementioned documents, and to present a report containing a detailed proposal for its further implementation to the Governing Council at its ninth special session, which should include an assessment of the availability of requisite technical and financial resources, as well as the implications of that plan for the programme of work and budget of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Decision 23/4: Administrative and other budgetary matters

A. Proposal to reduce the number of trust funds in support of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds,[32]

Notes and approves the proposed actions of the Executive Director to reduce the number of trust funds in support of the work programme.

30 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

31 "Draft road map for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building", presented to the meeting of the Joint Subcommittees I and II of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 10 February 2005.

32 UNEP/GC.23/9.

B. Management of trust funds

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds,[33]

1. Trust funds in support of the work programme

1. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) CWL – General Trust Fund for the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), which was established in 2005 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007;

(ii) RPL – General Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Developing Countries in a Regular Process for Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, which was established in 2003 with no fixed expiry date;

(iii) YPL – General Trust Fund for a Long Term Strategy for Engaging and Increasing Participation of Youth in Environmental Issues – Tunza Fund, established in 2003 with an expiry date of 31 December 2008;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(iv) BPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Belgium (financed by the Government of Belgium), which was established in 2004 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007;

(v) DPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Partnership Agreement between the Government of the Netherlands and UNEP, which was established in 2002 with no fixed expiry date;

(vi) REL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund For the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean Region, which was established in 2002 with an expiry date of 30 September 2006;

(vii) TOL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the International Organization of the Francophonie) which was established in 2004 with no fixed expiry date;

2. *Approves* the extensions of the following trust funds:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) DUL – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Dams and Development Unit to Coordinate Follow-up to the World Commission on Dams, which is extended through 31 December 2007;

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[33] Ibid.

(ii) ETL – Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is extended through 31 December 2007;

(iii) MCL – General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation of a Global Assessment of Mercury and its Compounds, which is extended through 31 December 2007;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) ELL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), which is extended through 31 December 2007;

(ii) GNL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), which is extended through 31 December 2007;

(iii) GWL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Support to the Global International Waters Project (financed by the Government of Finland), which is extended through 31 December 2007;

(iv) TCL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Nordic Governments through the Governments of Denmark and Sweden), which is extended through 31 December 2007;

3. *Notes and approves* the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director subject to completion of their activities and satisfaction of all financial implications:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) BKL – General Trust Fund for the Clean-up of Environmental Hotspots following the Kosovo Conflicts and Preparation of Guidelines on Assessment and Remedial Measures for Post-conflict Environmental Damages;

(ii) EGL – General Trust Fund to establish a Secretariat to the Environment Management Group in the International Environment House, Geneva;

(iii) IGL – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Open-ended Group of Ministers or their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, including the Participation of Developing Countries;

(iv) RCL – General Trust Fund in Support of the Implementation of Governing Council Decisions in the North America Region;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) AHL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen Pan-European Environmental Cooperation (financed by the Government of the Netherlands);

(ii) ANL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the UNEPnet Implementation Centre (financed by the Government of Norway);

(iii) BNL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Senior Technical Cooperation Advisor/Liaison Officer for the UNEP Office in Brussels (financed by the Government of the Netherlands);

(iv) CGL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in the use of Geographic Information Systems in Agricultural Research Management (financed by the Government of Norway);

(v) FGL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Senior Programme Officer to the UNEP/GPA Office in The Hague (financed by the Government of France);

(vi) GTL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of UNEP Implementation of Enabling and Pioneering Environmental Projects (financed by the Government of Germany);

(vii) IPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden);

(viii) ITL – INFOTERRA Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (financed by the Government of the United States of America);

(ix) JGL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Activities on Environmental Issues (financed by the Government of Japan);

(x) KTL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Cleaner Production Investments in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Norway);

(xi) PUL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the UNEP Executive Director's Implementation of Personnel Reforms in the UNEP Secretariat (financed by the Government of the United States of America);

(xii) RUL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of Meetings of Subcommittees or Working Groups on the Programmatic and Administrative Reform of UNEP (financed by the Government of the United States of America);

(xiii) SNL – Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Provision of a Programme officer to UNEP/SBC (financed by the Government of Switzerland-SAEFL);

(xiv) TAL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Government of Austria);

(xv) UCL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Enhancement of Cooperation between UNEP and the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) in

the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 687 (1991) financed by UNCC;

(xvi) UKL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of an Executive Assistant of the Executive Director (financed by the Government of the United Kingdom);

2. Trust funds in support of regional seas programmes, protocols and conventions and special funds

4. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) BFL – General Trust Fund for Biosafety, which was established in 2002 with an expiry date of 31 December 2005;

(ii) BGL – General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Biosafety Protocol, which was established in 2004 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007;

(iii) BHL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for the Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities, which was established in 2004 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007 (Biosafety Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity);

(iv) ROL – General Trust Fund of the Rotterdam Convention, which was established in 2005 with an expiry date of 31 December 2006;

(v) SOL – General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations relevant to the Vienna Convention, which was established in 2003 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) BIL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Developing Country Parties, in Particular the Least Developed and Small Island Developing States amongst them, and Parties with Economies in Transition, which was established in 2004 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007 (Biosafety Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity);

(ii) LDL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Management of UNEP/GEF National Adaptation Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries established in 2002 with no fixed expiry date;

(iii) RSL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition (financed by the Government of Switzerland), which was established in 2002 with no fixed expiry date;

(iv) RVL – Special Trust Fund of the Rotterdam Convention, which was established in 2005 with an expiry date of 31 December 2006;

5. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests for extension from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) AWL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA), through 31 December 2008;

(ii) BAL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) through 31 December 2009;

(iii) BCL – Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, through 31 December 2007;

(iv) BDL – Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and other Countries in need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, through 31 December 2007;

(v) BEL – General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2007;

(vi) BTL – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of the European Bats, through 31 December 2009;

(vii) BYL – General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2007;

(viii) BZL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2007;

(ix) CRL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, through 31 December 2007;

(x) CTL – Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), through 31 December 2008;

(xi) EAL – Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, through 31 December 2007 (Nairobi Convention);

(xii) ESL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, through 31 December 2007;

(xiii) MEL – Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, through 31 December 2007 (Barcelona Convention);

(xiv) MSL – Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, through 31 December 2008;

(xv) PNL – General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, through 31 December 2007 (NOWPAP);

(xvi) WAL– Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region, through 31 December 2007 (Abidjan Convention);

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

GFL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility, through 30 June 2007;

6. *Notes and approves* the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director subject to completion of their activities and satisfaction of all financial implications:

(a) General trust funds:

BFL – General Trust Fund for Biosafety;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) BSL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Establishment of Regional Centres under the Basel Convention (financed by the Government of Switzerland);

(ii) PHL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Professional Officers to the Ozone Secretariat (financed by the Government of the Netherlands).

C. Loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve

The Governing Council

Recalling its decision 21/33 of 9 February 2001, by which the Governing Council authorized the Executive Director to approve an advance of up to 8 million United States dollars from the Environment Fund financial reserve to the United Nations Secretariat towards the construction of additional office accommodation at the United Nations complex in Nairobi, and its decision 22/23 II of 7 February 2003, by which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the further progress of loan drawdowns and the status of the construction project and to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session on the implementation of decision 22/23 II;

1. *Notes with appreciation* the Executive Director's report on administrative and other budgetary matters, in particular section IV on the loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve, and the progress achieved in the implementation of the first phase of the construction project;[34]

[34] UNEP/GC.23/9.

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on further progress on loan drawdowns and the status of the construction project.

D. Flow of financial information between the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the secretariats of relevant conventions

The Governing Council

Requests the Executive Director, in conjunction with the executive secretaries of conventions for which the United Nations Environment Programme is the trustee, to explore possibilities for further improving the financial information flows to ensure that the convention secretariats have up-to-date, accurate information available to them at all times, and to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives thereon.

Decision 23/5: Small island developing States

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.VIII/2 of 31 March 2004 on small island developing States and the request contained therein for the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council on the outcome of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 10 to 14 January 2005,

Having considered the report subsequently submitted by the Executive Director,[35]

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the outcomes of the Mauritius International Meeting;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue strengthening activities by the United Nations Environment Programme related to small island developing States on a tailored and regional basis and further to rationalize delivery by the United Nations Environment Programme in the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian Ocean, the South China Seas and the Caribbean region, using the network of United Nations Environment Programme regional offices, regional seas programmes, conventions and action plans and partners to the greatest extent possible;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the activities which the United Nations Environment Programme undertakes in relation to small island developing States contribute to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted at the Mauritius International Meeting;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth regular session on the implementation of the present decision.

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[35] UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.6/Rev.1.

Decision 23/6: Keeping the world environmental situation under review

The Governing Council,

Pursuing its functions and responsibilities as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments and, among other things, to promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information,

Noting the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its tenth meeting[36] to support the increased involvement of African scientists and research institutions and regional and subregional centres of excellence in international environmental assessment,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/224 of 22 December 1989, 46/217 of 20 December 1991, 48/192 of 21 December 1993, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 58/209 of 23 December 2003 on, among other things, international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats,

Recalling also the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[37] adopted in Johannesburg on 4 September 2002,

Noting the continuing work of regional and global specialized organizations, including, among others, the Artic Council, the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Climate Observing System, the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, the Global Ocean Observing System, the Global Terrestrial Observing System, the Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recognizing the need further to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme and welcoming the report of the Executive Director[38] on activities and plans for so doing,

Noting the outcomes of the global intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation on the fourth Global Environment Outlook, held in Nairobi on 19 and 20 February 2005,[39]

1. *Acknowledges* the findings of the *Global Environment Outlook Yearbook* 2004–2005;

2. *Welcomes* the feature focus of the *Yearbook* on gender, poverty and environment[40] and calls upon Governments and intergovernmental organizations to mainstream gender considerations

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36 UNEP/AMCEN/10/8, annex II, decision 8.

37 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I, resolution 2, annex.

38 UNEP/GC.23/3, chap.III.

39 UNEP/DEWA/GEO/IGC.1/2.

40 See document UNEP/GC.23/INF/2, attachment.

into their relevant environmental policies, plans, programmes and activities, in particular through promoting:

(a) Gender-balanced participation in environmental assessments, monitoring, policy and decision making;

(b) Gender perspectives in the design of assessment, monitoring and early-warning processes and identifying priority environment-related data sets for gender disaggregation;

(c) Gender dimensions in the formulation of environmental policies, decisions and actions;

3. *Decides* that, in support of the agenda[41] of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2006, the feature focus of the 2005–2006 *Yearbook* should be energy and air pollution, which are both elements of the thematic cluster of issues for the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for 2006–2007;

4. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Executive Director and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment of the International Council for Science on identifying emerging environmental issues and bringing them to the attention of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and of the public at large;

5. *Notes* the importance of environmental management in controlling emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and, in that connection:

(a) Calls upon Governments to promote cooperation between health and environmental authorities in order to control emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases;

(b) Requests the Executive Director to keep the human health aspects of environmental change under review in cooperation with the scientific community and relevant international organizations, in particular the World Health Organization;

6. *Notes* emerging scientific evidence relating to global climate change and its impacts and, in that connection:

(a) Encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take such emerging scientific evidence into account in its fourth assessment report;

(b) Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental bodies, to keep those changes and their impacts under review and to report on any new developments in that area;

(c) Encourages Governments, the private sector and civil society to continue to address the serious challenges of global climate change, including through the implementation of international agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and, for those countries which have ratified it, its Kyoto Protocol;

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[41] See Governing Council decision 23/12.

7. *Notes* the set of environmental indicators presented in the *Yearbook* and the cooperation between the Executive Director and the United Nations Statistical Division[42] on environment statistics and, in that connection:

(a) Expresses its appreciation for the contribution of environmental data by Governments and international organizations;

(b) Notes the need to continue to improve the quantity and quality of environmental data and statistics and calls upon Governments to undertake national networking for data collection and dissemination and to provide data of high quality and credibility for the *Yearbook* indicators, and to respond to the United Nations Statistical Division/United Nations Environment Programme questionnaire on environment statistics;

(c) Invites Governments and international organizations to support capacity-building for data collection and management in support of the *Yearbook* environmental indicators and also for the broader collaboration between the United Nations Statistical Division and the United Nations Environment Programme on environment statistics;

8. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on activities and plans for supporting the 10-year plan for the implementation of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems, including the possibility of contributing to the secretariat for the governing body of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems, which will be hosted by the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to establish a process of developing the fourth Global Environment Outlook as an integrated assessment of the global environment which involves Governments and builds upon national, subregional and regional information, assessments and experiences, in consultation with United Nations Environment Programme national focal points through the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme, strengthening as appropriate subregional and regional capacities;

10. *Calls upon* Governments and relevant institutions to provide extrabudgetary resources for technical cooperation and capacity-building within the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building[43] and the proposed "Environment Watch" framework, for keeping the world environmental situation under review.

Decision 23/7: Strengthening environmental emergency response and developing disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning systems in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 21/17 and 22/8 on further improvement of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation,

Noting with deep concern the unprecedented Indian Ocean tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004 and its devastating impact on the people, societies, economies and environments of the affected countries;

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[42] See UNEP/GC.23/INF/15.

[43] UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

Expressing concern over the medium and long-term social, economic and environmental impacts of the disaster on the affected countries;

Noting with deep concern the extent to which limitations in capacities for preparedness for natural and human-induced disasters, particularly in developing countries, can jeopardize progress towards implementing internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[44]

Welcoming with deep appreciation the generous response and strong commitment by Governments, the United Nations system, international financial institutions and the international community to support the affected countries and to address the broad range of challenges in the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, including activities in the area of disaster reduction,

Pursuing its functions and responsibilities as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments and, among other things, to promote the contribution of relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/224 of 22 December 1989, 46/217 of 20 December 1991, 48/192 of 21 December 1993, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 58/209 of 23 December 2003, on, among other things, international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats, and resolution 59/279 of 19 January 2005 on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster,

Recalling also the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[45] adopted in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 4 September 2002,

Recalling further the Jakarta Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention in the Aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004,[46] adopted at the special meeting of leaders of the Association of South-East Asian Nations held in Jakarta on 6 January 2005 in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, and the pledges made by donor countries and international financial institutions for assistance to the affected countries,

Noting the outcome of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[47] held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005,

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44 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of September 2000.

45 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap.I resolution 2, annex.

46 A/59/669, annex.

47 *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port-Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4).

Noting also the Hyogo Declaration[48] and the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005–2015,[49] as well as the common statement[50] of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster arising from the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

Noting further the Phuket Declaration[51] arising from the Phuket Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements held in Phuket, Thailand, on 28 and 29 January 2005,

Welcoming the appeal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a global early-warning system for disasters and the efforts of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to coordinate efforts by the United Nations system for the establishment of a tsunami early-warning system for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian region and other high-risk areas,

Recognizing that sound environmental management and effective early-warning systems are important and integral components of disaster prevention and mitigation,

Expressing its satisfaction and recognizing the continued positive collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs through the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit in enhancing the ability of the international community to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in responding to environmental emergencies,

Taking note of the report by the Executive Director on the devastating impacts of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster on countries, including small island developing States and millions of people in South and South-East Asia and in East Africa,[52]

1. *Notes* the establishment by the Executive Director of the internal ad hoc task force to coordinate the response by the United Nations Environment Programme, in close cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other relevant organizations, to the tsunami disaster;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit to continue its mandate as the United Nations coordinating body for international assistance to countries facing environmental emergencies;

3. *Notes* the work on the development of the five-pillar strategy for responding to the tsunami disaster in close coordination with the United Nations humanitarian and development system and Governments of the affected countries, which focused on:

(a) Response to requests from affected countries;

(b) Mobilization of immediate environmental assistance by integrating environmental needs into the humanitarian flash appeal;

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48 Report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005 (A/CONF.206/6), chap. I, resolution 1.

49 Ibid., resolution 2.

50 Ibid., annex II

51 Phuket Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements, 29 January 2005.

52 See document UNEP/GC.23/INF/2, attachment.

(c) Mobilization of environmental recovery by integrating environmental considerations into rehabilitation and reconstruction;

(d) Establishment of and advocacy for an environmental agenda for reconstruction of affected areas;

(e) Support to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the development of tsunami early-warning systems as a priority in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian region and other high-risk areas;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to work in cooperation with the Governments of the countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami, along with the scientific community and other United Nations bodies, while avoiding duplication of work being carried out by those bodies, other relevant institutions and civil society in:

(a) Providing appropriate expertise for supporting emergency environmental planning and assistance;

(b) Assessing environmental impacts of the tsunami and the environmental aspects of any consequent risks to human health and livelihoods;

(c) Promoting the integration of environmental considerations into wider mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

(d) Promoting, in reconstruction efforts in particular, international cooperation on the use of renewable energy technologies, as appropriate;

(e) Supporting short and long-term environmental restoration and management, in particular as they relate to human vulnerability and well-being, taking into account the role of integrated coastal-zone management, land-use planning and management of ecosystems, which may help mitigate the impacts of natural and human-induced disasters;

5. *Supports* the efforts of Governments and the international community to cooperate in the development of a worldwide early-warning system for natural and human-induced disasters through, among other things, a multimodal approach, and taking into consideration the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for all-hazards warning systems, which should include a tsunami early-warning system for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian region and other areas potentially at risk, under the coordination of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to support the efforts of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to coordinate the efforts by the United Nations for the establishment of the tsunami early-warning system for the Indian Ocean, South-East Asian region and other high-risk areas;

7. *Decides* to continue and strengthen participation by the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, in particular in the context of the communiqué of the third Earth Observation Summit relating to support for tsunami and multi-hazard warning systems within the context of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to work in close cooperation with Governments and relevant international organizations and inter-agency mechanisms, including the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to promote the environmental components of such

systems, including by making use of local observations and indigenous knowledge as a complement to scientifically and technologically-advanced systems, and by assisting countries with the development of strategies for enhancing ecosystems which mitigate the impacts of tsunami and other disasters;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue developing, in close consultation with Governments, relevant international institutions and secretariats of multilateral environment agreements:

(a) An environmental approach to the identification and assessment of areas which are potentially at risk from natural and human-induced disasters, noting that intact mangrove and coral-reef ecosystems may help protect shorelines and islands;

(b) Guidelines outlining procedures and methodologies for environmental assessments of natural and human-induced disasters;

10. *Invites* Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to continue cooperating with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs through the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit in their efforts to provide emergency assistance to countries, in particular developing countries facing environmental emergencies and natural disasters with environmental impacts;

11. *Also invites* Governments and relevant institutions to provide extrabudgetary resources, on a voluntary basis, for technical cooperation and capacity-building, within the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[53] for strengthening national and local-level capacity for coping with the environmental aspects of hazard and risk reduction, early warning, preparedness, response and mitigation relating to natural and human-induced disasters through, among other things, working with national Governments, local communities and civil society and making use of existing mechanisms such as the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level process developed by the Executive Director in cooperation with an international consortium of organizations and industries;

12 *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its ninth special session on the implementation of the present decision.

Decision 23/8: Environmental and equity considerations in the procurement practices of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 18/10 on good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system, as regards environmental housekeeping in the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting that the environmental and equity considerations of normal purchasing practices of the United Nations Environment Programme should be consistent with traditional factors such as performance, availability, price and product safety and should contribute to the enhancement of the mutual supportiveness of trade, environment and development, with a view to achieving sustainable development,

Noting that other international organizations and Governments may have useful information to provide on programmes in that area,

53 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

1. *Invites* Governments to share with the United Nations Environment Programme their experiences, lessons learned and best practices related to environmental and equity considerations in procurement practices;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a compilation report on environmental and equity considerations regarding current procurement practices in the United Nations Environment Programme and an assessment of its performance and to present it to the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-fourth session;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council on the implementation of environmental housekeeping aspects of decision 18/10 by the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session.

Decision 23/9: Chemicals management

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21[54] and Governing Council decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 18/32 of 25 May 1995, 19/13 of 7 February 1997, SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998, 20/22 of 4 February 1999, 20/23 and 20/24 of 4 February 1999, 21/3, 21/4, 21/5 and 21/6 of 9 February 2001, SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002 and 22/4 of 7 February 2003 concerning global policies related to chemicals management,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

Welcoming also the continuing good cooperation between the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Customs Organization in addressing international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes,

Noting the existing good cooperation and the potential for further enhancing coherence and synergies between the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[55] adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development on 4 September 2002, concerning the renewed commitment on the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development and for the protection of human health and the environment, as well as the aim of achieving, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent, science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set

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54 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

55 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

forth in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[56] and the call for support to developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste by providing technical and financial assistance,

Recalling also paragraph 23 (b) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in which the World Summit endorsed the further development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management,

Recalling further paragraph 23 (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in which the World Summit encouraged partnerships to promote activities aimed at enhancing the environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, implementing multilateral environmental agreements, raising awareness of issues relating to chemicals and hazardous waste and encouraging the collection and use of additional scientific data,

Recalling paragraph 23 (g) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which called for action at all levels to promote the reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals which are harmful to human health and the environment, including through a review of relevant studies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme global assessment of mercury and its compounds,[57]

Welcoming the participation of Governments, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations from multiple sectors such as agriculture, environment, foreign affairs, health, industry, labour and science at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, held in Bangkok from 9 to 13 November 2003, and at its second session, held in Nairobi from 4 to 8 October 2004,

Noting the Sirte Declaration on the Environment for Development[58] adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its tenth session, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 26 to 30 June 2004, in which ministers committed themselves further to prioritizing and drawing synergies from, among other things, the strategic approach to international chemicals management process, and decision 5 of the same session[59] in which ministers endorsed and encouraged the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management,

Noting with appreciation those Governments which have made financial contributions to the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme relating to sound chemicals management,

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on chemicals management,[60]

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56 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

57 Governing Council decision 22/4.

58 Report of the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 26–30 June, 2004. (UNEP/AMCEN/10/8, annex I).

59 Ibid., annex II.

60 UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.1.

I

Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen support, within available resources, for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director further to promote cooperation between the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Customs Organization in addressing international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director further to promote cooperation with the Basel Convention regional training centres in the implementation of activities, as appropriate, of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions related to hazardous wastes and chemicals;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote full cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision, as it relates to cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations, to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

II

Strategic approach to international chemicals management

6. *Urges* governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental participants as defined in the rules of procedure[61] adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, to continue to participate actively in the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide funding to support the further development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management;

8. *Also requests* Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to contribute the extrabudgetary resources needed to support the further development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management with participation by stakeholders from diverse sectors;

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61 *Report of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Bangkok, 9–13 November 2003* (SAICM/PREPCOM.1/7, annex I).

9. *Further requests* the Executive Director to make the necessary preparations, including intersessional work and preparation of documents, for a third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee, to be held in September 2005 in Vienna, and, in cooperation with the other co-conveners, for the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which is envisaged to take place in conjunction with the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2006;

10. *Welcomes* the concurrence of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, as co-convenors along with the United Nations Environment Programme, that the International Conference on Chemicals Management, at which the adoption of the strategic approach to international chemicals management is to be considered, should be held in conjunction with the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in early 2006;

11. *Invites* the participants at the International Conference on Chemicals Management to refer the adopted document to the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations for consideration;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its ninth special session on the outcomes of the process for developing the strategic approach to international chemicals management, with a view to the Governing Council considering its endorsement on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Director, as a matter of high priority, to make appropriate provision for the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme's responsibilities under the strategic approach to international chemicals management, once adopted;

14. *Further requests* the Executive Director to make provision for activities to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the strategic approach to international chemicals management, taking into account the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[62] the effective implementation of which is a matter of high priority, and to report on the provision of such support to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fourth session;

III

Lead and cadmium

15. *Reaffirms* its decision 22/4 III of 7 February 2003 on lead;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to undertake a review of scientific information, focusing especially on long-range environmental transport, to inform future discussions on the need for global action in relation to lead and cadmium;

17. *Encourages* Governments and other stakeholders to increase contributions in order to facilitate the timely implementation of the work required by the present decision;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on implementation of the present decision as it relates to lead and cadmium to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

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62 UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

IV

Mercury programme

19. *Reiterates* the conclusion of the UNEP Global Mercury Assessment that there is sufficient evidence of significant global adverse impacts from mercury and its compounds to warrant further international action to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds into the environment;

20. *Also reiterates* its decision that national, regional and global actions, both immediate and long-term, should be initiated as soon as possible to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce or eliminate releases of mercury and its compounds into the environment;

21. *Continues to urge* all countries to adopt goals and to take national actions, as appropriate, with the objective of identifying exposed populations and ecosystems and reducing anthropogenic mercury releases which affect human health and the environment;

22. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop further the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme established under decision 22/4 V of 7 February 2003 by initiating, preparing and making public a report summarizing supply, trade and demand information for mercury, including in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and, based on a consideration of the life-cycle approach, to submit a document forming a basis for consideration of possible further actions in those areas for the consideration of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

23. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop further the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, established under decision 22/4 V, with the aim of facilitating and conducting technical assistance and capacity-building activities through, among other things, the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[63] in order to support the efforts of countries to take action regarding mercury pollution;

24. *Encourages* Governments to promote and improve evaluation and risk communication methods, based on, among other things, guidance from the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which enable citizens to make health-protective dietary choices, considering risk and benefit information, primarily concerning fish consumption;

25. *Requests* Governments, the private sector and international organizations to take immediate actions to reduce the risks to human health and the environment posed on a global scale by mercury in products and production processes, such as:

(a) Considering the application and sharing of information on best available techniques and measures to reduce mercury emissions from point sources;

(b) Taking action on reducing the risk of exposure related to mercury in products such as batteries, and to production processes such as chlor-alkali facilities, through, for example, when warranted, introduction of bans or restrictions on uses;

(c) Considering curbing primary production and the introduction into commerce of excess mercury supply;

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[63] UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

26. *Requests* Governments in a position to do so to assist developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, through technology transfer, capacity-building and access to financial resources in order to achieve the goals listed in paragraph 7 of the present decision;

27. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to develop and implement partnerships, in a clear, transparent and accountable manner, as one approach to reducing the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds to the environment and thereby achieving the objectives set forth in the annex to decision 22/4 V;

28. *Requests* the Executive Director, building upon decision 22/4 V, which addresses the issue of further measures for addressing the significant global adverse impacts of mercury and its compounds:

(a) To invite Governments, particularly of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to identify, in consultation with stakeholders, priority partnership areas as soon as possible, with the goal of identifying a set of pilot partnerships by 1 September 2005, posting that information on the website of the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and keeping the website current as additional partnerships are proposed and developed;

(b) To work with Governments and relevant stakeholders to compile and report needs identified to execute the partnerships and assist in the mobilization of resources in support of the partnerships;

(c) To share and disseminate information submitted by partnerships on progress, lessons learned and emerging best practices via the website of the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and other methods of communication, and report on the results of those partnerships;

(d) To report at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the International Conference on Chemicals Management about the partnership programme;

(e) To report on the progress of implementation of the partnerships to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

29. *Requests* that, for each partnership established under the present decision, at least the following be identified:

(a) The goals of the partnership;

(b) The process and timeline according to which the partnership will be developed and implemented;

(c) The roles and responsibilities of the partners, including identification of lead countries in particular areas (for example, both a developing and a developed country might share the lead role);

(d) A mechanism to implement effective monitoring and evaluation procedures to assess and report on the progress of the partnership;

30. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to form a partnership to assist the Executive Director in the mobilization of resources;

31. *Also encourages* the development of pilot partnerships to demonstrate early success, including by using, as appropriate, existing structures such as regional centres, and fostering collaboration by countries in and between regions;

32. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate work between the mercury programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and Governments, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the partnerships, as appropriate:

(a) To improve global understanding of international mercury emission sources, fate and transport;

(b) To promote the development of inventories of mercury uses and releases;

(c) To promote the development of environmentally sound disposal and remediation practices;

(d) To increase awareness of environmentally sound recycling practices;

33. *Encourages* Governments and stakeholders, especially in developed countries, and relevant international organizations within their respective mandates, to mobilize technical and financial resources to work towards successful partnerships; that assistance could include, among other things, identification of best practices and transfer of appropriate technology;

34. *Concludes* that further long-term international action is required to reduce the risks to human health and the environment arising from releases of mercury;

35. *Notes* the strengthened actions to be taken to address global mercury issues in the present decision;

36. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision as it relates to mercury to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

37. *Decides* to assess at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council, on the basis of the aforementioned progress report, the need for further action on mercury, considering a full range of options, including the possibility of a legally binding instrument, partnerships and other actions;

38. *Urges* Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to make contributions in order to support the implementation of the mercury programme.

Decision 23/10: Poverty and the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 22/10 of 7 February 2003 concerning poverty and the environment in Africa,

Recalling further paragraph 11 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[64] which recognizes poverty eradication as an essential requirement for sustainable development, as well as

[64] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 1, annex.

chapter II of the Plan of Implementation[65] of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its specific actions on poverty eradication,

Having regard to the discussions which took place during the ministerial-level consultations of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council with respect to the environmental dimension of the commitments and internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular those relating to poverty and the environment,

Requests the Executive Director to enhance further the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in all regions to promote understanding of the linkages between poverty and the environment and, where appropriate, to assist Governments, upon their request, to integrate environmental decision-making into social and economic policy on poverty eradication, in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and in line with its programme of work.

Decision 23/11: Gender equality in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling principle 20 of the Rio Declaration,[66] paragraph 20 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[67] goals 3 and 7 of the internationally agreed goals of the Millennium Declaration and the targets on water and slums and paragraph 20 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[68]

Recalling also its own decisions 17/4 of 21 May 1993, 18/6 of 26 May 1995, 19/7 of 7 February 1997 and 20/9 of 5 February 1999 on the United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development,

Reaffirming the need to continue the implementation of Agenda 21[69] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[70] and to pursue gender mainstreaming in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in a spirit of full cooperation and global solidarity,

Concerned about the impact of environmental degradation on the livelihoods of communities, particularly for women living in poverty,

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65 Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

66 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

67 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of September 2000.

68 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

69 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

70 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Underlining the importance of integrating into national sustainable development strategies and into poverty reduction strategy papers gender equality and the particular role of women as natural resource managers,

I

Equal participation in decision-making

1. *Invites* Governments to promote methods of work conducive to women's participation in environmental decision-making at all levels with the aim of achieving broad gender balance;

2. *Encourages* the Executive Director to work with other United Nations agencies to assist Governments in promoting the equal participation of women and men in policy formulation, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and reporting on sustainable development;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote the sharing of good examples of gender-sensitive environmental initiatives of Governments and all stakeholders;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to develop a mentorship programme which would encourage young women to take an active role in environmental policy formulation and decision-making;

5. *Encourages* the Executive Director to enhance work, including at the regional level, to develop and disseminate gender-disaggregated analyses, data and information on United Nations Environment Programme issues and activities;

6. Encourages the Executive Director to strengthen further the involvement of women in United Nations Environment Programme activities;

II

Gender mainstreaming in environmental policies and programmes

7. *Calls on* the Executive Director to develop and promote a set of gender-equality criteria for the implementation of programmes;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to apply the United Nations Environment Programme gender-sensitivity guidelines;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building,[71] to take into account paragraph 3 (e) thereof, which states, as one of the objectives of the Plan,

> "To integrate specific gender-mainstreaming strategies, as well as education and training for women, in formulating relevant policies, and to promote the participation of women in environmental decision-making";

10. *Further requests* the Executive Director to give an account of lessons learned about gender-related aspects of environmental issues in conflict situations and to apply its conclusions to the post-conflict assessment work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

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[71] UNEP/IEG/IGSP/3/4, annex.

III

Assessment of effects on women of environmental policies

11. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to assist Governments in building capacity for gender mainstreaming in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building;[72]

12. *Encourages* the Executive Director to collaborate with scientific institutions to promote research-exchange programmes on gender and the environment as an input to the Decade for Education on Sustainable Development;

13. *Also encourages* the Executive Director to work with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and other relevant human rights bodies in identifying lessons learned on gender-related aspects of environmental issues;

IV

Implementation

14. *Invites* Governments, in accordance with its decision 20/9 of 5 February 1999, to designate gender focal points and to notify the Executive Director thereof;

15. *Also invites* Governments actively to involve all stakeholders in their gender-equality and environment-related activities;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to integrate further gender-equality and environment activities into the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

17. *Invites* the Executive Director, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources, to explore options, in consultation with Governments, on the possibility of developing an action plan for gender mainstreaming within the work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to communicate the present decision to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and to report on the situation with regard to gender equality and the environment and progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

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[72] Ibid.

Decision 23/12: Provisional agendas, dates and venues of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 53/242 of 28 July 1999,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (paragraph 17) of 22 December 1992, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 56/242 of 24 December 2001 and 57/283 B (paragraphs 9–11 of section II) of 15 April 2003,

Recalling further decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum,

I

Ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. *Decides* to hold its ninth special session in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 7 to 9 February 2006, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for its generous offer to host the session;

2. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda;

   (b) Organization of work.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment.

5. Policy issues:

   (a) Energy and environment;

   (b) Chemicals management;

   (c) Tourism and the environment.

6. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

7. International environmental governance.

8. Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

9. Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report.

12. Closure of the session.

II

Twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

3. *Decides* that, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum shall be held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 February 2007;

4. *Decides also* that informal consultations between heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 4 February 2007, the day before the opening of the twenty-fourth session;

5. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Policy issues:

   (a) State of the environment;

   (b) Emerging policy issues;

   (c) Coordination and cooperation with the United Nations system on environmental matters;

   (d) Coordination and cooperation with civil society;

   (e) International environmental governance;

   (f) Water policy and strategy.

5. Follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

6. Implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council.

7. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2008–2009 and the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.

8. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

   (a) Tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

   (b) Twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

9. Other matters.

10. Adoption of the report.

11. Closure of the session.

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